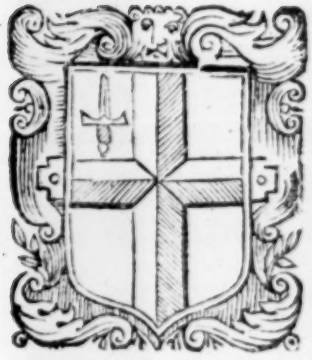
AN ACT OF COMMON COUNCIL

For the better Regulation of

WEIGHING OF GOODS and MERCHANDIZES AT THE KINGS BEAMS.



Printed by *Samuel Roycroft*, Printer to the Honourable City of *LONDON*, 1698.



Commune Concilium tent' in Camera *Guihall'* Civitat' *LONDON'*, die *Veneris* Decimo octavo die *Novembr'*, Anno Domini 1698. Annoque Regni Domini noſtri, WILLIELMI Tertij, nunc Regis *Angliæ,&c.* Decimo: Coram *Franciſco Child* Mil', Majore dictæ Civitatis, *Roberto Clayton* Mil', *Edwardo Clarke* Mil', *Johanne Parſons* Mil', *Richardo Levett* Mil', *Jacobo Houblon* Mil', *Thoma Abney* Mil', *Willielmo Hedges* Mil', *Owen Buckingham* Mil', *Thoma Rawlinſon* Mil', *Willielmo Withers* Arm', & ejuſdem Civit' Aldermannis, ac *Willielmo Gore* Mil', un' Vicecomitum & Aldermanno dictæ Civitatis: Necnon major' parte Communiar' in eodem Commune Concil' tunc & ibidem aſſemblat'.

An ACT *of* Common Council, *For the better Regulation of the* Weighing *of Goods and Merchandizes at the* KING's Beams.

WHEREAS it appertaineth to Juſtice, That to all Men be uprightly given true Weight and Meaſure;

And whereas, for the more indifferent and juſt Weighing of Goods and Merchandizes, which uſed to be Bought and Sold by Weight, within the City of LONDON and Liberties thereof, there are, and

and from the time, whereof the Memory of Man is not to the contrary, there have been certain Common Beams, within the said City and Liberties thereof, commonly called the KING's BEAMS, at which there are and have been during all the time aforesaid, certain sworn Officers, who by the Duty of their Places have used, and ought constantly to attend for the Weighing of such Goods and Merchandizes.

And whereas the Office of TRONAGE, or Weighing of all Goods and Merchandizes within the said City and Liberties thereof, as well by Custom time out of mind, as by several ancient Charters and Acts of Parliament, is confirmed unto and vested in the Mayor and Commonalty and Citizens of the said City.

And whereas all Goods and Merchandizes of all Foreigners not being Free of the said City, which have been Sold or Bartered within the said City or Liberties, to any Person or Persons whatsoever, as well Freemen as others, ought and during all the time aforesaid have been accustomed to be Weighed at one of the said Beams, at or before the Sale or Delivery thereof.

And whereas divers Foreigners of late time not minding or regarding the good and wholsom Customs of the said City, but out of a Covetous desire, by sinister ways and unlawful means, to promote their own private Interests, have oftentimes Sold and Delivered such their Goods and Merchandizes within the said City, as well to Freemen of the said City as others, by other Weights and Beams, without weighing the same at any of the said Common Beams, whereby many Frauds, Injuries and Deceits have happned and been

been committed: And the better to palliate their Offence and avoid ſuſpicion, do ſometimes by Confederacy and Practice with ſome Freemen of the ſaid City, cauſe Fraudulent and Clandeſtine Sales to be made of ſuch their Goods and Merchandizes to Freemen of the ſaid City, before the ſame Goods or Merchandizes do come to the ſaid City or Liberties thereof, contrary to the Oaths of ſuch Freemen, and ſometimes do mix their Goods with the Goods of other Perſons that are Free of the ſaid City, that ſo the diſtinct property of the Goods of Foreigners, may not be known from thoſe of Freemen: And other times do procure Freemen to be Partners with them in ſuch Goods and Merchandizes, who many times have but a ſmall and inconſiderable Share therein; and upon ſuch and other like fraudulent means and pretences, hold themſelves diſcharged from the Duty of Weighing ſuch Goods at any of the ſaid Beams, whereas in truth they are not, nor ought by any ſuch Colour or Pretence to be in any ſort excuſed or diſcharged, of or from the ſaid Duty.

For remedy whereof, It is hereby Enacted, Ordained and Declared by the Lord Mayor, Aldermen and Commons of the City of London in Common Council aſſembled, and by the Authority of the ſame; That all Goods, Wares and Merchandizes of any Perſon or Perſons being a Foreigner or Foreigners, and not Free of this City, of what kind ſoever uſually Bought and Sold by Weight, at any time after the firſt day of January next enſuing, which ſhall be within or brought to the ſaid City or Liberties thereof, and ſhall be Sold or Bartered to any Freeman or Freemen of the ſaid City, or to any other Perſon or Perſons whatſoever, within the ſaid

City or Liberties thereof, shall at, or before the Delivery thereof to the Buyer, or any other Person or Persons, for his use, be Weighed at the said Common Beams, or one of them, upon pain of forfeiture of Thirteen shillings and Four pence for every Five hundred weight of such Wares and Merchandizes, to be paid by the Seller or Barterer thereof, and so after the same Rate for every greater or lesser quantity.

And for the further prevention of all Fraudulent and Clandestine Dealings, which may hereafter be practised by any Freeman or Freemen of the said City, Foreigner or Foreigners in Buying of, or Bartering for Goods or Merchandizes of Foreigners and Strangers without the Freedom of the said City, to the intent to avoid the Duty of weighing such Goods and Merchandizes at the said Common Beams, and the reasonable Duty to be paid for the same: Be it further Enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That if any Sale shall be made by any such Foreigner or Foreigners, to any Freeman or Freemen of the said City, of any such Goods or Merchandizes, before the same Goods or Merchandizes come to this City, or the Liberties thereof, whereby they avoid the just Weighing such Goods or Merchandizes at one of the said Beams, and the Duty for Weighing thereof; and such Goods and Merchandizes shall afterwards come to this City or the Liberties thereof, and shall after the said first day of January be Sold or Bartered, and delibered by such Foreigner or Foreigners, Freeman or Freemen, to any other Person or Persons whatsoever, within the said City or Liberties thereof; Then such Goods or Merchandizes shall, at or before the Delibery thereof to such Person or Persons so Buying the same, be Weighed at the said Common

Beams,

Beams called the King's Beams, or at one of them, upon pain to forfeit Thirteen shillings and Four pence, for every Five hundred weight, of such Wares or Merchandizes, to be paid by the Seller or Barterer thereof, and so after that Rate for a greater or lesser quantity, notwithstanding any such Sale as aforesaid,

And be it further Enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That if any Freeman or Freemen of this City, to whom such fraudulent Sale of such Goods or Merchandizes shall be made, as aforesaid; shall wittingly or willingly after the said first day of January, put in Ure, Justifie or Endeavour to Maintain such Fraudulent Sale, to the intent to avoid the said just Weighing such Goods and Merchandizes, and the Duty to be paid for the same; Then every such Freeman shall forfeit for every such Offence the Sum of Five pounds.

And it is hereby further Enacted and Declared, That if any such Goods or Merchandizes, of any Freeman or Freemen of this City, shall be mixed with the Goods and Merchandizes of any Foreigner or Foreigners not Free of this City; so that the distinct Property and Proportion of each of them cannot be known and distinguished from other, and such Goods or Merchandizes so mixed and not divided, being within the said City or Liberties, shall at any time after the said first day of January, be Sold or Bartered within the same by such Freeman or Freemen, Foreigner or Foreigners, or by any, or either of them, to any other Person or Persons, before any Partition, Division or Seperation be thereof made; Then all such Goods and Merchandizes, as well of such Freeman or Freemen, as of such Foreigner

reigner or Foreigners ſhall, at or before the Delivery thereof to any other Perſon or Perſons ſo Buying the ſame, be Weighed at the ſaid Common Beams, called the King's Beams, or at one of them; or in default thereof, as well the Buyer as the Seller thereof, ſhall each of them forfeit and pay the Sum of Thirteen ſhillings and Four pence for every Five hundred weight of ſuch Wares and Merchandizes, and ſo after that Rate for a greater or leſſer quantity, as aforeſaid.

And it is further Enacted by the Authority aforeſaid, That all ſuch Goods and Merchandizes uſually Sold by weight, whereof any Freeman or Freemen ſhall be poſſeſſed, by Conſignment to be Sold, or Diſpoſed for the benefit of any Foreigner not Free of the ſaid City, or in Copartnerſhip, or in Common with any Foreigner by equal Moieties, or by any other Share or Shares, which at any time after the ſaid firſt day of January, ſhall be Sold or Bartered, to any Perſon or Perſons whatſoever within the ſaid City or Liberties thereof, ſhall at, or before the Delivery thereof, be Weighed at the ſaid Common Beams, or one of them, and in default thereof, the Seller or Sellers thereof ſhall forfeit and pay the Sum of Thirteen ſhillings and Four pence, for every Five hundred weight of ſuch Wares and Merchandizes, and ſo after the ſame Rate for a greater or leſſer quantity, as aforeſaid.

And whereas, for defraying the neceſſary Charges of repairing and maintaining the ſaid Beams, and the Scales, Weights and other neceſſaries thereunto belonging, and likewiſe to enable the ſaid Mayor, Commonalty and Citizens, to give reaſonable recompence and ſatisfaction for the

the care and attendance of ſuch Perſons, as are and ſhall be neceſſarily employed therein; There have been time out of mind paid to the ſaid Mayor and Commonalty and Citizens, their Deputies or Officers in that behalf, certain reaſonable Rates and Duties for Weighing ſuch Wares and Merchandizes; and the ſame have in all times been ſubject to the Alteration and Regulation of the Common Council of the ſaid City.

Now, to the intent that the ſaid Rates and Duties may be the better aſcertained and made publick to all Perſons concerned in Weighing, as aforeſaid; And to prevent the Officers and Collectors thereof from Demanding, Exacting or Receiving more than they ought to do: Be it further Enacted by the Authority aforeſaid, That all and every Perſon or Perſons not being Free of this City, who ſhall Sell and Deliver, or Cauſe to be Sold and Delivered within the ſaid City or Liberties thereof, any Goods or Merchandizes uſually Bought and Sold by Weight, as aforeſaid, ſhall from and after the ſaid firſt day of January, in the Year of our Lord 1698, pay or cauſe to be paid unto the Maſter Weigher or Superviſor of ſuch the ſaid Common Beams, at which the ſaid Goods or Merchandizes ſhall be weighed at, to the uſe of the ſaid Mayor, Commonalty and Citizens or their Aſſigns, the Rates and Duties, following; (That is to ſay) for all Goods or Merchandizes whatſoever Sold by Weight, from Twenty eight pounds weight excluſive, to Two hundred weight incluſive, for each Draught Two pence: And from Two

hundred weight excluſive, to Four hundred weight incluſive, for each Draught Three pence: And from Four hundred weight excluſive, to Six hundred weight incluſive, for each Draught Six pence: And from Six hundred weight excluſive, to Eight hundred weight incluſive, for each Draught Ten pence: And from Eight hundred weight excluſive, to Ten hundred weight incluſive, for each Draught One ſhilling and Four pence: And from Ten hundred weight excluſive, to Twelve hundred weight incluſive, for each Draught One ſhilling and Eight pence: And from Twelve hundred weight excluſive, to Eighteen hundred weight incluſive, for each Draught Two ſhillings: And from Eighteen hundred weight excluſive, to Twenty two hundred weight incluſive, for each Draught Two ſhillings and Four pence: And from Twenty two hundred weight excluſive, to Twenty five hundred weight and upwards, for each Draught Three ſhillings; for every Bag of Hops, Six pence; for every Ton of Iron, One ſhilling and Two pence; for every Fodder of Lead, Ten pence.

And be it further Enacted by the Authority aforeſaid, That the ſaid ſeveral Rates ſo appointed to be paid for the uſes aforeſaid, for the Weighing of all Goods or Merchandizes, as aforeſaid, be from henceforth the only Rates that ſhall be taken or received for the Weighing thereof, as aforeſaid; any thing herein, or in any other Act, Cuſtom or Uſage, to the contrary in any wiſe notwithſtanding.

And

And be it further Enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That no Person or Persons whatsoever, shall at any time or times hereafter be constituted or admitted Master Weigher, Supervisor or Supervisors, or other Officer or Officers whatsoever, for Weighing of Goods or Merchandizes at the said Common Beams, commonly called the King's Beams, or either of them, or shall keep, use or exercise any Common Beam or Beams, for the Weighing of any Goods or Merchandizes within the said City or Liberties thereof, other than such Person or Persons, as shall be first thereunto Authorized or Licensed by this Court or a Committee thereof: And that if any Person or Persons shall keep, use and exercise any Beam or Beams, for Weighing of Goods or Merchandizes, as aforesaid, within the said City or Liberties thereof, without being thereunto Licensed or Appointed, as aforesaid, such Person or Persons, for every such Offence, shall forfeit and pay the Sum of Four pounds and Nineteen shillings.

Provided always, and be it further Enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That this Act or any thing herein contained, shall not be construed or expounded to debar or hinder any Freeman or Freemen of the said City, from using of his or their own Beam or Beams, in the Weighing of his or their own proper Goods or Merchandizes, (not in Copartnership with a Foreigner or Foreigners) by him or them Sold in, or Delivered out of their Shops or Warehouses, as hath heretofore been used and

and accuſtomed ; any thing herein contained to the contrary hereof in any wiſe notwithſtanding.

And be it further Enacted by the Authority aforeſaid, That every Maſter Weigher, Surveyor or Surveyors, or other Officer appointed, or to be appointed to be Maſter Weigher of the ſaid Common Beams, or any of them, ſhall from time to time once in every Three Months at the leaſt, carefully Examine all the Weights and Beams to be uſed for the Weighing of Goods and Merchandizes, as aforeſaid, with the Standard kept for that purpoſe, and ſhall conſtantly keep them true and agreeing with the ſame: And that, if at any time hereafter any ſuch Perſon or Perſons, Officer or Weigher imployed, or to be Employed, as aforeſaid, ſhall be Convicted upon the Oath or Oaths of one or more Witneſſes, before the Lord Mayor and Court of Aldermen of the ſaid City, of keeping and uſing, at any of the ſaid Beams, any Weights not agreeing with the ſaid Standard, or for any Diſhoneſt or Unjuſt Dealings or Practizes, in or about the Weighing of any Goods ſo to be Weighed, as aforeſaid; That then ſuch Perſon or Perſons, Officer or Weigher ſo Offending, ſhall (ipſo facto) be Diſcharged, of and from ſuch his ſaid Office or Deputation.

And

And to the end, that all and every the Perſon and Perſons that ſhall hereafter be ſo, as aforeſaid, Authorized and Appointed to attend the ſaid Beams, or any of them, for the Weighing of Goods and Merchandizes, as aforeſaid, may the more impartially, diligently and carefully perform his and their Duty: Be it further Enacted by the Authority aforeſaid, That no Weigher, Superviſor or Supervifors, or other Officer or Officers whatſoever hereafter to be Authorized or Appointed to attend the ſaid Beams, or any of them for the purpoſes aforeſaid, ſhall at any time after ſuch Authority or Appointment, Uſe or Exerciſe the Trade, Art or Myſtery of a Factor or Agent, for the Buying or Selling any Goods or Merchandizes, or ſhall Employ himſelf as a Broker, to make any Bargain, Contract or Agreement between Merchant and Merchant, or other Buyer and Seller of any Goods or Merchandizes whatſoever: And that all and every Maſter Weigher, Superviſor or Supervifors or other Officers, in either of the ſaid Caſes Offending, ſhall from thence forth be (ipſo facto) Diſcharged, of and from ſuch his and their ſaid Office and Employment,

And for prevention of all Differences that ſhall or may ariſe between Buyers and Sellers, concerning the Weight of the Goods or Merchandizes weighed at the ſaid Beams, or any of them: Be it further Enacted by the Authority aforeſaid, That One or more exact Regiſter or Regiſters ſhall be kept by the

Maſter Weigher or Surveyor of the ſaid Common Beams, of all Goods and Merchandizes Weighed from time to time at his reſpective Beam, and of the true Weight thereof, to the intent that due Proof may be made of the ſame by ſuch Maſter Weigher or Surveyor, his Deputy, Agent or Agents, if occaſion ſhall require.

And be it further Enacted by the Authority aforeſaid, That if any Maſter Weigher, or Surveyor, at any of the ſaid Common Beams, ſhall neglect to keep ſuch Regiſter, and be thereof Convicted upon Oath, as aforeſaid, before the Lord Mayor and Court of Aldermen, ſuch Maſter Weigher or Surveyor, ſhall for every ſuch Offence be (ipſo facto) Diſcharged, of and from his ſaid Office or Deputation.

And be it further Enacted by the Authority aforeſaid, That all and every Perſon or Perſons, that ſhall hereafter be appointed to be Maſter Weigher, Surveyor or Surveyors, or other Officer, at any of the Common Beams aforeſaid, ſhall ſet on Work and Employ ſuch Porters as are and ſhall be admitted of the Fellowſhip of Ticket Porters within this City; They the ſaid Porters ſubmitting to accept ſuch Rates, as from time to time this Court or a Committee thereof ſhall think fit and reaſonable.

And

And be it further Enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That such Person or Persons that have, or who shall have the Authority over or Government of the said Porters, as well to prevent Exactions by the said Porters, as also that the said Service may be duly and constantly supplied, shall provide that such competent number of the said Porters may by Turns attend at the Weigh-House every Morning except Sundays, upon the said Master Weigher, Supervisor or Supervisors of the said Common Beams, as by him or them shall be required for performing the said Service, according to the intent and meaning of this Act; And their Wages or Allowances for all Labour and Work by them done and performed, shall be paid unto such Porters by such Master Weigher, Supervisor or Supervisors, out of the Moneys to be by him or them received, for Weighing any Goods or Merchandizes at the Beams aforesaid.

And be it further Enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That every Master Weigher, Supervisor or Supervisors, or other Officers, from time to time appointed for Weighing of any Goods or Merchandizes at the Beams aforesaid, or some of them, shall upon request and within convenient time after reasonable notice to him or them given, for the Weighing of any one or more Draught or Draughts of

of Goods or Merchandize, (the Person or Persons so requiring, undertaking to pay or satisfie the Charge of Carrying and Recarrying some one of the said Beams, together with the Triangles, Weights and Scales thereunto belonging) apply him or themselves to the Weighing thereof, upon pain of forfeiture of his or their Office or Deputation, being thereof Convicted, as aforesaid, for every such neglect or refusal.

And it is hereby further Enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That the Weigh-house, Scituate, Standing and being in or near Little East-Cheap in the Ward of Billingsgate within the said City of London, shall be deemed, as and for the Common Office for Tronage and Weighing of all Goods and Merchandizes, that shall be Sold within the said City or Liberties thereof, as aforesaid, and also shall be the only Market for the Buying and Selling of Hops.

And be it further Enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That all and every the Penalties and Forfeitures in this Act mentioned, shall be Sued for and Recovered by Action of Debt, Bill, Plaint or Information to be Commenced and Prosecuted in the Name of the Chamberlain of the said City, for the time being, in any of the Courts of Record within the said City.

And

And that one Moiety of all and every the Forfeitures and Penalties before mentioned, when recovered, (Charges of Suit being first deducted) shall be paid to the Treasurer of the Corporation for the POOR within this City, for the use of the said Corporation: And the other Moiety of such Forfeitures and Penalties, to such Person or Persons, who shall Sue for the same, as aforesaid.

And that the Prosecutor or Prosecutors in all Suits to be Prosecuted by virtue of this Act, against any such Offender or Offenders, shall recover his reasonable Costs of Suit expended in and about the Prosecution thereof.

And that the Chamberlain of the said City, for the time being, (where any Action is brought in his Name, by virtue of this Act) shall not Release, Suspend or Delay the Prosecution thereof.

Provided, that nothing contained in this Act, shall extend to charge any Person or Persons whatsoever, for or by reason of any such Forfeitures, as aforesaid, unless such Suit or Action shall be Commenced within the space of Six Months, next after such Offence is committed.

And be it hereby further Enacted and Declared by the Authority aforesaid, That one Declaration touching the Weighing of Goods and Merchandizes at the King's Beams, with an Act of Common Council, Intituled, An Act for the better Regulation of the Weighing of Goods and Merchandizes at the King's Beams, which were made the Thirteenth day of May, in the Year of our Lord 1681, in the time of the Mayoralty of Sir Patient Ward Knight, and all and every the Clauses and Branches in the said Declaration and Act, or either of them contained, are hereby Repealed, Annulled and made Void, to all intents and purposes whatsoever.

Goodfellow.

Printed by *SAMUEL ROYCROFT*, Printer to the Honourable City of *LONDON*, 1698.

The Oath of every Free-man of the City of London, *upon his Admiſſion into the Freedom thereof.*

YE ſhall ſwear, that ye ſhall be good and true to our Sovereign Lord King WILLIAM, Obeyſant and Obedient ye ſhall be to the Mayor and Miniſters of this City. The Franchiſes and Cuſtoms thereof ye ſhall maintain, and this City keep harmleſs in that that in you is. Ye ſhall be contributary to all manner of Charges within this City, as Summons, Watches, Contributions, Taxes, Tallages, Lot and Scot, and to all other Charges, bearing your part as a Freeman ought to do. Ye ſhall Colour no Foreign Goods under or in your name, whereby the King or this City might or may loſe their Cuſtoms or Advantages. Ye ſhall know no Foreigner to buy or ſell any Merchandizes with any other Foreigner within this City or Franchiſe thereof, but ye ſhall warn the Chamberlain thereof, or ſome Miniſter of the Chamber. Ye ſhall implead or ſue, no Freeman out of this City, whilſt ye may have Right and Law within the ſame City. Ye ſhall take no Apprentice, but if he be Freeborn, that is to ſay, no Bond-mans Son, nor the Child of any Alien, and for no leſs term than for ſeven years, without fraud or deceit: And within the firſt year ye ſhall cauſe him to be Enrolled, or elſe pay ſuch Fine as ſhall be reaſonably impoſed upon you for omitting the ſame. And after his Terms end, within convenient time (being required) ye ſhall make him Free of this City, if he have well and truly ſerved you. Ye ſhall alſo keep the Kings Peace in your own perſon. Ye ſhall know no Gatherings, Conventicles nor Conſpiracies made againſt the Kings Peace, but ye ſhall warn the Mayor thereof, or lett it to your power. All theſe Points and Articles ye ſhall well and truly keep, according to the Laws and Cuſtoms of this City to your power. So God you help. **God Save the King.**

FINIS.